

THE ART IN MUSIC

ITS INTRICACIES AND BEAUTY EXPLAINED.

The second of a series of six lecture concerts of chamber music, arranged by the Elder Conservatorium, was held in the Brookman Hall, School of Mines, last night. As on the first occasion the attendance was most gratifying and encouraging, and the hall was practically filled. The audience evinced great interest in the lecture and keen appreciation of the works played. The works chosen for explanation were Tschaiikowsky's quartet in D for two violins, viola, and 'cello, and a quartet in B flat for pianoforte and strings by Saint Saens. Professor Ennis (Director of the Conservatorium), was the lecturer, and he carried out his task with success. His explanations of the structure and beauty of the compositions were most interesting and instructive. The first work was in four movements, the first of which was divided into three sections. In the first section the musical material was presented and consisted of two main themes. The second section was in a different key from the first, but the material was again presented in different lights, and in the third section the same material was repeated in a similar manner to the first. The second principal theme was in a main key and the movement concluded with a brilliant coda. The second movement was of a dainty character and consisted of two themes, the second being a melody for the ground work. The two themes were repeated, the second receiving different treatment. The third movement was a scherzo, which was given in the familiar minuet and trio form. The structure of the last movement was similar to that of the first movement. It was highly rhythmic in character, which quality was brought out strongly in the second or development section. As in the first movement it ended with a coda in which the speed was accelerated.

In dealing with the second work Professor Ennis said the first movement was in ordinary form, the first subject showing figuration and flowing melody. The second subject was in the dominant key and was treated first by the viola and afterwards by the 'cello, the figures being subsequently treated separately in the development section. The third section was a repetition of the first, with certain modifications. To a large extent the section was divided into two parts, the strings representing one and the piano the other. The third movement was in Rondo form. The main theme was repeated several times, but a contrasted section was brought in between the repetitions. The fourth was a most difficult movement. It opened with a bold theme, the opening stanza being excellent, but it contained much new material. In some compositions the last movement coincided with what had gone before and in the case under discussion the melody of the first movement was brought in in the last, but was of a more lively character. Mr. Gerald Walenn, Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas, Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A., Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac., and Mr. I. G. Reiman were the artists, and they showed a fine conception of the compositions which were set for their interpretation.

Admission 24.7.18

THE TOWN-PLANNING CONFERENCE.

Forty-four South Australian delegates have registered for the Town-Planning Conference at Brisbane. The personnel of the delegation is as follows:—Representing the Government, the Attorney-General (Hon. H. N. Barwell), Messrs. C. C. Reade, Victor H. Ryan, M. F. McNamara, and N. W. Pethick; Town-Planning Association, Mr. H. W. Uffindell; University, Mr. G. E. Mayo; State Bank, Messrs. H. D. Gell and A. Wells; Local Government Officers' Association, Messrs. J. Cheriton and J. D. Woods; Institute of Surveyors, Professor R. A. Chapman; Botanic Garden Board, Mr. W. D. Ponder, M.P.; School for Mothers, Miss A. Hornsbrook and Mrs. A. Pointon; Wattle Day League, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Silver; Institute of Architects, Mr. P. R. Cleridge; Builders' and Contractors' Association, Mr. E. H. Swan; Adelaide City Council, the town clerk; Unley City Council, Messrs. C. Williams and H. C. Richards; Port Adelaide City Council, Messrs. J. Anderson, E. Bradwell, and W. W. Tapp; Clare Town Council, Messrs. J. Victorson and M. Kimber; Kadina Town Council, Messrs. P. Roach and P. Jackson; West Torrens District Council, Mr. J. M. Sutherland; Woodville District Council, Messrs. R. O. Evans and H. Slade; Mitcham District Council, Mr. Robert Duncan; Yatala South District Council, Mr. S. H. Clutterbuck; Kadina

District Council, Messrs. A. Rodda and J. H. White; Payneham District Council, Mr. A. E. Pitt; Pinnaroo District Council, Mr. A. Townsend; Alma Plains District Council, Mr. A. E. J. Smyth; Angaston District Council, Mr. J. Dallwitz.

Advertiser 26. 7. 18

Help for Ex-Officers.

LONDON, July 25.

The Board of Agriculture and Ministries of Labor and Pensions have appointed a committee called the Officers' University Technical Training Committee to advise on the course of training desirable to secure for ex-officers suitable employment after the war. Arrangements have already been made for a thousand convalescent officers to attend Universities and similar institutions, and the number is steadily growing. Mr. Keogh, chairman of the London School of Economics, is organising lectures on business training to enable the disabled to take up commercial careers in the Dominions.

The Mail 29. 7. 18

COMPULSORY ENGLISH.

EXAMINATIONS BOARD'S DECISION.

It has been decided by the University Public Examinations Board that in future English shall be a compulsory subject for the course in the Junior and Senior examinations. This step is both wise and commendable, but if, as is supposed, the action was prompted because there is need for further study in literature, it is surprising no great attempt has been made to alter considerably the syllabus for study. The "Mail" on previous occasions has laid stress upon the absurdity of parts of the syllabus, especially in regard to the narrow study of Shakespeare; but it is necessary to go further afield. One of the chief complaints of examiners in English and history every year is that the general style of the English submitted by candidates is lamentable. The obligatory study of literature should make an attack upon this weakness; but an effective resistance will be possible only when wide reading of a consistent syllabus is demanded. All that the student has to encounter should not only be easily within the mental scope of the average healthy boy, but the selections laid down should cover as wide a field as possible, thus giving the student an opportunity to compare and contrast the salient features of the best pieces without a laborious struggle to appreciation.

If a compulsory system is meant to lead to appreciation, understanding must be surmised. Now, we contend that English, as English, is not taught in our schools. Sufficient stuffing-in of compressed facts and blind annotation on the part of the sweating schoolmaster in the attempt to allow boys to "pass" and to enter upon their full University courses is nothing short of a prostitution of the art of teaching literature, and has become a disease. The cancer will never be eradicated while those who have control adhere to their present obsolete methods. For example, this year a study of Wordsworth's "Selected Poems" is in the course, despite the fact that the sheer mysticism of that poet cannot be easily or adequately grasped by the adolescent mind. Many a man can neither understand nor appreciate the undercurrent of Wordsworth's finest works. Quite as many will not admit their inability in this direction. The University is the place for such poems as the glorious "Immortality Ode" and its kind; not the schoolroom, where a slow hatred of what ought to be cherished is now fostered by the present system. It is not necessary to continue a discourse on the syllabus, but the time has come for suggestion. A well-balanced anthology of the best prose and poetry, set before the boy without "notes," and a massive "introduction," would provide half the cure. As the demands of examiners stand, there is no possibility of the average boy who wants a "pass" appreciating, in any decent sense, the work he has studied, and the examiners will never get their longed-for sign of self-expression while they stifle it rather than foster it.

here 29.7.18

LOVE AND LOGIC.

To-day the sport at the University-College football match was punctuated and added to by the antics of a band of 'Varsity' students whose juvenile spirits outwitted their saner moments, but whose foolery was unique and practical. A crowd of the more sober University supporters had congregated in the stands, their only object being to enjoy the sport of the afternoon. They were apparently amazed to find some of their confreres in different parts of the pavilion with their lady friends; and indignation impelled them first to call upon the backsliders to "join up," then to take the defaulters by force and carry them shoulder high to their proper abode in the main stand. Many were removed to the accompaniment of noise and prominence, but one made of sterner stuff would not willingly sacrifice the company of his fair ally for the whims of his brethren. The attempts of the students to dislodge him ended with defeat, but a second offensive was not long in being launched. By this time the fiery spirits of the College boys were aroused and when the victim was again captured by the 'Varsity adherents they counter-attacked with delightful energy, not only freeing the persecuted student, but driving their elder opponents back to the stand where noise for the moment was suspended. There was no animosity in the proceeding, and the raid ended in cheers for the sides concerned.

Register 29.7.18

NOTES AND QUERIES.

STATE EDUCATION.

From "DENTATUS":—I am glad that my letters have provoked Mr. Moyes to enter this discussion, but I am very sorry that he should for a moment think that I had intended any reflection upon a gentleman universally respected for his progressive ideas, his untiring energy, and his kindly sympathy with his assistants and devotion to the welfare of his children. There are others in the rank of head masters who are both capable and conscientious. But I think Mr. Moyes will admit that instances have occurred such as I have described. I may have been somewhat too sweeping in my statements, for which I duly apologise; but I think Mr. Moyes will be the first to admit that many projected reforms have been rendered negatory by the unsympathetic attitude of those holding high positions in the service, and that the enthusiasm of young and ardent teachers has been damped by mechanical methods of testing their work. Take the subject of "Nature study" which was hailed by the more thoughtful teachers as opening the door to a complete revolution in our methods of training young minds, tending to draw out their powers of independent observation, and to cultivate initiative and originality. What has it become under the soul-destroying influence of the mechanical test? Instead of being the most delightful exercise for teachers and children, is it not regarded by many teachers as a bagbag and a farce? So with the so-called "observation lessons," which are usually crammed up a fortnight before the annual examination. Does not the same fate beset the introduction of any reform into our schools? Why is it that the delightful spontaneous mental activity of children is so quickly and ruthlessly crushed after they enter school? Why is it that our schools turn out so many without the capacity for independent thought or individual initiative? Did not the late Mr. W. L. Neale point out in no measured terms the fatal facility of our schools in producing "helpless children?" What do all our fine-spun theories about child psychology practically amount to? Why is there such a conflict between theory and practice? What is the use of our young people at the University carefully and earnestly studying the most approved methods if the conduct of the schools forbids them putting these ideas into practice? Therefore I emphatically repeat that all attempts at reform or improved methods will prove abortive until those in authority are animated by the sacred fire of enthusiastic devotion to the true welfare of the child, and until their minds are broadened by a thorough and exhaustive study of all that great thinkers in every age have written on the true education of the human mind. Therefore we must open the way for the younger generation of teachers, for those who have acquired the breadth of view that only a university training can give, and who have proved their capacity for translating the ideas thereby instilled into actual practice in the schools.

August 2, 1918.

Private JOHN GILBERT JACOB, who was killed in action on July 7 (previously twice wounded), was the second son of the late Mr. Henry Jacob and Mrs. Jacob, of Brantwood, Kensington Gardens. He won a University scholarship from the Adelaide High School, and had almost completed his Bachelor of Arts course, when he enlisted in March, 1916. He took an active interest in all educational work, was a regular attendant at the Unitarian Christian Church, Sunday-school, and guild, and an earnest member of the University Christian Union. An elder brother, who had served nearly three years, was killed in action on September 25, 1917, and Lieutenant Denis Jacob, a younger brother, has returned to Australia.

Review 6.8.18

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

BY STRING ORCHESTRA.

The Elder Conservatorium String Orchestra, assisted by Mr. Harold Wylde, F.R.C.O., gave an enjoyable concert at the Elder Hall on Monday evening. There was a large and appreciative audience. The orchestra, which consists mainly of students of the Conservatorium, and is conducted by Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac., and led by Miss Gwen Sansom, gave an excellent account of itself. The principal work submitted was Parry's "Lady Radnor" suite for strings, which was now performed for the first time in Adelaide. The general excellence of the treatment of this composition reflected the utmost credit, not only on the conductor, but on the performers, the majority of whom are quite youthful. The full tone produced in the third movement (the "Sarabande" was admirable, and the succeeding "Bouree" was played with spirit and precision. The fifth movement (the slow "Minuet," which called for greater delicacy of treatment, was not so happy. The orchestra gave a sympathetic interpretation of Professor Ennis's delightful arrangement of a familiar old Irish melody, and played Schumann's "Dreaming" with equal taste. Then followed two numbers for strings and organ, in which the orchestra had the able assistance of Mr. Wylde as organist. Jensen's "Serenade" was followed by Dr. Walford Davies's beautiful "Solemn melody," and in the latter number particularly organist and orchestra achieved a splendid effect. The 'cello solo of Mr. Derrick Thompson added not a little to the enjoyment of the item, which was demonstratively encored and had to be repeated. The orchestra's concluding numbers were a Haydn minuet and trio, and the waltz and march from Volkmann's "Serenade" (Op. 63).

The solo performers included Master Eric Gibbs, a youthful 'cellist of exceptional promise, who played a Golttermann "Romance," and there were also several vocal numbers. Mr. Harold Gard (Elder Scholar) achieved an artistic triumph in his singing of the recitative and aria, "Je suis seul" and "Ah, fuyez, douce image" from Massenet's "Manon." He has a wonderful tenor voice, which he uses with increasing ability. Miss Eileen Hogan, A.M.U.A., the possessor of a pleasant and yet powerful soprano, sang two of Parry's "English lyrics." Miss Evelyn Malone contributed Tosti's "L'ultima canzone," and Miss O'Leary and Mrs. Rowe gave the duet from Rossini's "Stabat Mater," "Quis est homo."

Advertiser 6.8.18.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT.

The concert given at the Elder Hall last night was a pronounced success. The feature was the playing of the Conservatorium String Orchestra under the capable conductorship of Mr. Harold Parsons, teacher of the violoncello and assistant teacher of ensemble playing at the Conservatorium. Mr. Parsons' choice of compositions for this concert merits a special word of praise. The "Suite for String" orchestra (Lady Radnor), by Parry, consisted of six movements in old dance forms—"Prelude," "Allemande," "Sarabande," "Bouree," "Slow Minuet," and "Gigue," in which the composer has used that grace of rhythm and form peculiar to each movement with refreshing charm. This number was much enjoyed all through. Schumann's "Dreaming," Jensen's "Serenade," for strings and organ, and "A Solemn Melody," for strings and organ, by H. Walford Davies, were grouped. The last-named appealed strongly to the audience, who admired consecutively the violoncello solo of Mr. Derrick Thompson, the organ part played by Mr. Harold Wylde, and the rich nature of melody and harmony compiled by the composer—so much so that the work had to be repeated. Haydn's "Minuet, in the form of a canon," and Trio, Dr. Ennis' "Irish Melody" and Volkmann's "Waltz and March" reflected great credit on the influence and scholarship of the conductor. Miss Gwen Sansom capably led the orchestra. One instrumental solo was given by Master Eric Gibbs, who played Golttermann's "Romance," for violoncello, and received well-earned applause. Miss Evelyn Malone sang Tosti's "L'ultima canzone." Miss Eileen Hogan sang two English lyrics, by Parry, "Whether I live" and "The Maiden." Mr. Harold Gard's number was Massenet's recitative and aria, "Je suis Seul," and "Ah, fuyez, douce image," from "Manon." Miss O'Leary and Mrs. Rowe sang the duet "Quis est homo," from Rossini's "Stabat Mater."